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INDIGENOUS ISSUES

Implementation of the programme of activities for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

Report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

I. Introduction

1. Following a recommendation by the World Conference on Human Rights, the General Assembly, in its resolution 48/163 of 21 December 1993, proclaimed the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (1995-2004). The goal of the Decade is to strengthen international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, culture, the environment, development, education and health. The theme of the Decade is "indigenous people: partnership in action".

2. In its resolution 50/157, the General Assembly adopted the programme of activities for the Decade. One of the main objectives of the Decade is the adoption of the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples and the further development of international standards as well as national legislation for the protection and promotion of the human rights of indigenous people. Another major objective of the Decade is to further the implementation of the recommendations pertaining to indigenous people of all high-level international conferences, including the World Conference on Human Rights, in particular its recommendation that consideration be given to the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people in the United Nations system.

3. Also in resolution 50/157, the Assembly recommended that the objectives of the Decade should be assessed by quantifiable outcomes that will improve the lives of indigenous people and that can be evaluated halfway through the Decade (1999) and at its end (2004).

4. In its resolution 52/108, the General Assembly decided to appoint the High Commissioner for Human Rights as Coordinator for the Decade. The High Commissioner was requested to submit, through the Secretary-General, an annual report to the General Assembly on the implementation of the programme of activities for the Decade.

5. In its resolution 1998/13, the Commission on Human Rights requested the High Commissioner, in her capacity as Coordinator for the Decade, to submit an updated annual report reviewing activities within the United Nations system under the programme of activities for the Decade to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session under the agenda item entitled "Indigenous issues".

6. The High Commissioner, through the Secretary-General, submitted the annual report on the implementation of the programme of activities to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session. The report, contained in document A/53/310, is available to the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-fifth session.

7. The present report is an addendum to the report to the General Assembly, contained in document A/53/310.

Indigenous Fellowship Programme

8. The 1998 Indigenous Fellowship Programme was implemented by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in accordance with the adopted general programme outline and the specified thematic programme. The Programme lasted from 1 June to 30 November 1998. Four candidates were awarded a certificate for satisfactory completion of the Programme.

9. The Government of the Netherlands has earmarked a JPO (Junior Professional Officer) post for the Fellowship Programme. The appointed person will take up her position as a full-time fellowship coordinator as of 11 January 1999.

Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

10. The Voluntary Fund was established pursuant to the General Assembly resolutions on the International Decade. In accordance with paragraph 23 of the annex to resolution 50/157 on the programme of activities for the Decade, the Coordinator of the Decade established an Advisory Group in April 1996, with the participation of eminent indigenous persons as well as the Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations. The Advisory Group is invited to make recommendations relating to the Voluntary Fund to the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Coordinator of the Decade for approval on behalf of the Secretary-General.

11. At its third session, held from 2 to 8 April 1998, the Advisory Group requested the Secretariat to organize a three-day meeting for its members who might be present in Geneva during the session of the working group on the draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, to evaluate the 1998 Indigenous Fellowship Programme and to select candidates for the 1999 Programme. The inter-sessional meeting of the Advisory Group was

held at the United Nations Office at Geneva from 1 to 3 December 1998. Four of its members attended: Ms. Erica-Irene Daes (Chairperson-Rapporteur of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations), Mr. Michael Dodson (Chairperson of the Advisory Group), Ms. Tove Sövndahl Petersen and Ms. Victoria Tauli-Corpuz.

12. The Advisory Group evaluated the 1998 Indigenous Fellowship Programme and examined 123 applications from indigenous communities and organizations from 39 countries for the 1999 Programme.

13. After considering all the candidates, the members of the Advisory Group recommended that the following candidates, in order of preference, be offered grants to participate in the OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Programme in 1999:

Candidate	Alternate
Ms. Megan Davis (Australia)	Mr. Songphon Rattanawilailak (Thailand)
Mr. Ferry Marisan (West Papua-Indonesia)	Ms. Jacqueline Mai Katona (Australia)
Mr. Robbeck Vasilievich (Russian Federation)	Mr. José Cristián León Molina (Colombia)
Ms. Kristina Nordling (Sweden)	Mr. Denes Kiba (Suriname)

14. An additional group of alternates was recommended without any order of preference: Mr. Yosia Maday (West Papua-Indonesia), Mr. James Kid Rodelo (Guyana), Mr. Benon Mugarura (Rwanda) and Mr. Néstor Segura (Argentina).

15. These recommendations were approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights/Coordinator of the Decade on behalf of the Secretary-General on 4 December 1998.

16. As of 15 September 1998 (deadline for the receipt of applications), the Secretariat had not received applications from externally funded candidates to join the OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Programme. However, some indigenous organizations, communities, institutions and Governments have informed the members of the Advisory Group and Secretariat that they are trying to fund their candidates. It is therefore expected that one or two indigenous organization(s) will offer self-funded candidates for the Fellowship Programme for consideration by the Advisory Group at its fourth annual session in April 1999.

17. The following contributions received from Governments are available for allocation by the Advisory Group at its fourth session in April 1999. 1/ (as at 10 December 1998):

1/ According to information available at OHCHR.

State	Amount (US$)	Paid in NY/GE	Paid on
Cyprus	1 000	GE	12 May 1998
Estonia	1 000	GE	21 September 1998
Greece	3 000	GE	14 April 1998
New Zealand	13 232	GE	9 November 1998

18. The following contributions received from non-governmental organizations are available for allocation by the Advisory Group at its fourth session in April 1999. 1/ (as at 10 December 1998):

NGOs and individuals	Amount (US$)	Paid in NY/GE	Paid on
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission	5 839	GE	26 June 1998
Intuition	50	GE	1 May 1998
Music, Inc.	150	GE	7 August 1998
DBA Sequoia	50	GE	21 August 1998
Records	50	GE	6 October 1998

19. The following pledges were outstanding as at 10 December 1998:

State	Amount (US$)	Pledged in NY/GE	Pledged on
Bolivia	1 000.00	NY	4-5 November 1998
Denmark	153 000.00	GE	November 1998
Greece	3 000.00	NY	4-5 November 1998
Japan	37 000.00	NY	4-5 November 1998
Tunisia	951.47	NY	4-5 November 1998
Total	194 951.47		

20. The amount of contributions received as at 10 December 1998 (about US$ 30,000) is insufficient to carry out the activities planned for 1999, which include the Indigenous Fellowship Programme, grants to projects for indigenous communities and organizations and the organization of seminars and workshops, representing a total amount of about US$ 540,000.

21. The Chairman of the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on Human Rights addressed a strong appeal to the participants at the Commission to contribute to the Fund. The Commission, in its resolution 1998/13, encouraged all Governments to support the Decade by contributing to the Fund. The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

in its resolution 1998/22, also urged all Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the Fund and invited indigenous organizations to do likewise.

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

22. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations, established by the General Assembly in resolution 40/131 of 13 December 1985, provides financial assistance to representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to enable them to participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, funded by means of voluntary contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities. The General Assembly extended the mandate of the Fund by resolution 50/156 of 21 December 1995 by deciding that the Fund should also be used to assist representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the deliberations of the open-ended inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights on the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples.

23. The Fund is administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations by the Secretary-General assisted by a Board of Trustees. The mandate of the Board is to advise the Secretary-General on the administration of the Fund, through the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

24. All the relevant information on the recommendations adopted at the eleventh session of the Board of Trustees and approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General were included in the biennial report of the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on the Status of the Voluntary Fund (A/53/282) and in the report of the Secretary-General on the Implementation of the programme of activities for the Decade (A/53/310). The information included in the present report intends to supplement and update the information provided in the reports to the General Assembly.

25. Owing to the few applications received to participate in the working group of the Commission on Human Rights, the Board of Trustees at its eleventh session in April 1998 recommended that the secretariat of the Fund and Board sent application forms to all organizations authorized by the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to participate in the working group on the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous peoples, encouraging them to apply for funding from the Fund.

26. The secretariat received and analysed 55 applications which were received within the deadline from indigenous communities and organizations authorized to participate in the working group.

27. After having examined the application forms during inter-sessional consultations, the Board recommended that grants in an amount of approximately US$ 50,000 be awarded to the following 12 representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to attend the fourth session of the working group:

State	Peoples represented	Organization	Name of representative	Estimated cost (US$)
Australia	Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples	Aboriginal Legal Service of Western Australia	Mr. Dennis Eggington	4 628
Bolivia	28 communities in the region of Lomerio (the application does not specify the name)	Central Indigena de Comunidades Originarias de Lomerio	Ms. Ana Garcia Chore	4 986
Brazil	Tenena and Guarani	Associação das Mulheres Indigenas do Centro Oeste Paulista	Ms. Jupira Manoel Sobrinho	3 628
Chile	Mapuche	Consejo de Todas las Tierras	Mr. Aucan Huilcaman	4 148
Kenya	Maasai	MAA Development Association	Mr. Samson Ole Mootian	2 758
Nepal	Rai-Kirati, Limbu, Chepang, Tamang, Gurung and Magar	Nepal Indigenous Peoples Development and Information Centre	Mr. Narad Mani Rai Kirati	3 728
Peru	Populations of Aréquipa, Puño, Cusco, Apurimac, Madre de Dios, etc.	Comisión Juridica de los Pueblos de Integración Tahuantinsuyana	Mr. Fortunato Turpo Choquehuanca	5 842
Philippines	Igorot people of Cordillera	Cordillera Peoples Alliance	Ms. Minnie Degawan	3 228
Russian Federation	Shoria people	Association of Shoria People	Mr. Michael Todishev	2 642
Ukraine	Crimean Tatars, Karais, Krymchaks	Mejlis of the Crimean Tatar People	Mr. Nadir Bekirov	2 642
United Republic of Tanzania	Hadzabe, Barbaig and Iraqw	Christian Spiritual Youth Ministry	Mr. Nicodemus Soko Siayi	4 638
United States of America	Lakota (Sioux)	Teton Sioux Nation Treaty Council	Ms. Ellen Wright	3 628

28. The following contributions received from Governments and non-governmental organizations were available as at 10 December 1998 1/ for allocation for the twelfth session of the Board of Trustees in April 1999:

State	Amount (US$)	Pledge in NY/GE	Paid on
Canada	10 110	GE	1 May 1998
Cyprus	1 000	GE	12 May 1998
Estonia	3 000	GE	21 September 1998
Finland	38 480	GE	3 June 1998
Greece	6 300 6 000	NY	14 April 1998 28 April 1998
Netherlands	36 968	GE	10 June 1998
Sweden	63 291	GE	25 September 1998
NGOs			
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission	11 678 (A$ 20 000)	GE	26 June 1998
Grand total:	US$ 165 149		

29. The following pledges were outstanding as at 10 December 1998:

State	Amount (US$)	Pledged in NY/GE	Pledged on
Denmark	40 000	NY	November 1998
Japan	14 500	NY	4-5 November 1998
Total	54 500		

Draft United Nations declaration on the rights of indigenous people

30. The fourth session of the working group of the Commission on Human Rights on the draft declaration on the rights of indigenous people was held in Geneva from 30 November to 11 December 1998. The working group will submit its report to the Commission at its fifty-fifth session (E/CN.4/1998/82).

Open-ended ad hoc inter-sessional working group of the Commission on Human Rights on the establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people within the United Nations system

31. In its resolution 1998/20, the Commission on Human Rights decided to establish an open-ended inter-sessional ad hoc working group, from within

existing overall resources, to elaborate and consider further proposals for the possible establishment of a permanent forum for indigenous people within the United Nations system. It also decided that the participation in the working group would be according to the same procedures as agreed on for the working group on the draft declaration.

32. The working group will meet from 15 to 19 February 1999 at the United Nations Office at Geneva. It will submit a report to the fifty-fifth session of the Commission.